

**Montana Hemp Advisory Committee**  
Wednesday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Capitol Building, Room 102  
Helena Montana

Members in attendance:

Ben Thomas, Ex Officio, Director of the MT Department of Agriculture  
Perry Miller, Ex- Officio, MSU Bozeman MT  
Jeremy Anderson, Member, Fort Benton MT  
Jackee Beck, Member, Deer Lodge MT  
Arlin Fratzke, Member, Stevensville MT  
Ken Elliott, Member, Wolf Point MT  
Ross Johnson, Member, Great Falls MT  
Bart Icopini, Member, Hysham MT  
Dean Nelson, Member, Homestead MT  
Kim Phillips, Member, Helena MT

Members absent:

Jamie Fitterer, Member, Bozeman MT

Staff in attendance:

Cort Jensen, Department Attorney, Montana Department of Agriculture  
Andy Gray, Hemp Program Director, Department of Agriculture  
Mikayla Moore, Hemp Program Technician, Department of Agriculture  
Andy Fjeseth, Bureau Chief, Agriculture Development and Marketing Bureau, Department of Agriculture  
Weston Merrill, Marketing Officer, Montana Department of Agriculture  
Dani Jones, Hail Program Technician, Montana Department of Agriculture

Public members in attendance:

Billi Hergle, Helena MT  
Scott Haeffner, Anaconda MT  
Keith Erwin, Missoula MT  
Michael Rabb, Bozeman MT  
Dave Allaid, Bozeman MT  
Kate Cholewa, Missoula MT

Director Ben Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:04 am

### **Checkoff Proposal:**

- Presented by Director Ben Thomas, asking for guidance from the committee before the committee's term comes to an end.
  - Assessment on "whole" product at FIRST point of sale
- Cort Jenson referendum would pass by most growers that respond by number, not by acre
- Andy Gray 307 Licensed growers in the last three years
- Dean Nelson made a motion to proceed with an assessment and referendum
  - Ken Elliott 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
- Ross Johnson made a motion for a 2% assessment on the first point of sale on gross income
  - Ken Elliott 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor- motion passes
- Director Ben Thomas asked for public Comment- no comment at this time
  - Referendum is needed, will be a 5-week period (deadline around November 6)
    - Public Hearing before
  - Effective on crops grown in 2020
  - Agreement with border states; hemp grown in Montana
  - Defaults to "Raised and Processed"

### **Committee Members, Term Limits and Appointments:**

Director Ben Thomas discussed the process for appointing committee members

- 1-year appointment, current members term will expire in March 2020
- Members will be staggered terms, ranging from 2 to 3 years
  - Ex-Officio- University Staff and would like to see a Tribal member
  - Growers will make up the members
- Members appointed by the Director and Governor's Office

### **Department Update:**

#### **Processor License-**

Cort Jenson discussed the number of calls coming into the office for a processor license.

Cannot give a processor license if they are NOT in the state of Montana.

Please contact Andy Gray or Cort Jenson if you hear of any issues

- Ken Elliott Questions- I there bonding?
  - Cort Jensen- follow the Commodity Dealer License and laws
- Arlin Fratzke Question- How many approved licenses currently?
  - Andy Gray- Three received at this time, expecting 10-15 more
- Processing License will cover each part of the process
- Cort Jensen- Does a lab need a CBD license if they are testing- NO

### **Testing Update-**

Very busy staff, 59 growers have equaled safe tests

- Perry Miller Question- What the range? How Close?
- Andy Gray- Equal to or less than 0.3, some are close to either end
  - Lower tests than samples received, full/busy lab
  - Department Test plot with 4 of the Canadian variety and a China type C (tested super high 2.4). 12-15 Samples have been taken from the department test plot
- Bart Icopini Question- What's the drying process?
- Andy Gray- New dryer acquired at the lab. All samples are placed inside for a time period at a certain temperature. Total time is about a week
- Ken Elliott Question- Self Testing in the Midwest, can that be done for category A and B?
- Ben Thomas- USDA might not permit that, checking with licensed labs is better
- Ken Elliott Question- Private Labs- Accreditation and standards?
- Ben Thomas- DPHHS Certifies labs. Looking to open their own hemp lab, different from the cannabis lab.

### **FSMIP Grant-**

- "Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program", awarded to the Montana Department of Agriculture
- First federal grant for Hemp
- Looking towards Spring 2020, on non-CBD uses

Ken Elliott- Question- Growth Through Agriculture grant application deadline?

Andy Fjeseth-Grant deadline is November 1, 2019. Expecting a few hemp type applications

### **Sampling Update-**

- Andy Gray- In general the protocol is fair and in good representation from what was first in place.
  - Sampling from all areas of the plant, MINUS the top 3"
  - Still learning, testing different
- Ben Thomas- completed research on the Department plot from just the top 3" as well as the rest of the plant. "All Plant Testing"
- Ken Elliott Question- Grain Sampling, is it different?
- Andy Gray- Same Sampling, not targeting towards buds
- Jeremy Anderson Question- What is the protocol for farmers that are wanting to harvest, but have not sampled?
- Andy Gray- Post Harvest testing can be done

### **Federal Update-**

- Testing Protocol is held up, USDA pushing towards rules

### **Certified Hemp Program-**

- From the 2019 Legislature year
  - Propose rules winter 2019-2020
  - Comments needed from the public, information will be before the next meeting Jan/Feb 2020
- Ken Elliott Questions- "Grown in Montana" Brand?
- Andy Fjeseth- That program is housed in the Department of Commerce
  - Certified Hemp program will be house in Agriculture

### **Marketing Update-**

Weston Merrill

- Getting to know the processors
- Completing site visits
  - High Country Growers, Green House; includes Clones and Starts
- Looking to do a Montana Hemp Summit/Forum; April 2020
  - Networking and education
- Andy Fjeseth, Hemp Hotline much like the Hay Hotline
  - Producer/Buyer information
- Ben Thomas- Flag events that the department and the committee should know about
- Ben Thomas- "White Paper", Directed to MT Law Enforcement Agencies was handed out to the committee member.
  - Completed by the Department of Agriculture as requested by the Governor's office
  - Has been circulated to Police Associations, Sherriff Associations, and Local offices
  - Resource and document on how transparent the Department of Agriculture is
- Upcoming Events
  - Las Vegas Expo
    - Will be attended by Ken Elliott and Company
  - Ketchum Idaho, Hemp Building
    - October 24-25, 2019
    - Kim Phillips attending
    - No Building Codes for building with hemp. Will also include international speakers
  - Bismarck ND, November 19-20

### **Board Updates:**

- Kim Phillips- Small test plot, looks great
- Jeremy Anderson- CFX1, 40 Acres planted at the end of May, cut September 26. Plant to plant re-crop Barley
- Jackee Beck- 100 Acres planted, extremely inconsistent

**Board Updates Continued:**

- Arlin Fratzke- 20 Acres of CFX2, 20 lbs. of seed, 6-inch row spacing. About half a month behind, "don't flood irrigate"
- Ken Elliott- Building a processing plant in Fort Benton MT
- Ross Johnson- Quarter Mile pivot of CFX2- may have frozen grains
- Bart Icopini- 12 Acres of 2 different varieties, removed the male plants; did an ok job, but did not get all of them removed-Lots of pollination. Planted 1 pound of seed per acre- irrigated land. Starting harvest 10/3/2019, planted June 1. CBD I not as high as he would have liked it
- Dean Nelson- 700 Acres of Cherry Wine, dryland acres. 30-inch row with 30-inch spacing. Weeds are the biggest issue due to spacing, no canopy cover. Planted for CBD haven't tested yet. Irrigated land looks better
- Perry Miller-MSU Update -Three seeding dates with 2 varieties. Also planted at Moccasin research station and Sidney research station. Planted from early to late May. Planting at MSU Bozeman was Organic, Moccasin Station was conventional= shorter crop, and Sidney was irrigated=taller crop. Counting females, stems, and biomass. By third sample no seeds were left- from bird trouble. Collecting basic information; flower quickly, plants pull out of the soil easily, and plants have effective rooting depth.
- Ben Thomas- Testing Fees can be waived for Testing and Research

**Branding/Logo:**

- Ben Thomas will be talking with the Committee at the next meeting about a Logo
  - Perry Miller will take that back to his students at MSU

Ben Thomas thanked the staff for all the hard work and hours that have gone into this process

**Questions/Public Comment:**

No other public comment

**Adjourn:**

Ben adjourned the meeting at 12:00pm



Ben Thomas, MT AGR Director



Date



Dani Jones, Hail Insurance Technician



Date

## MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

MT Hemp Advisory Committee Meeting	MEETING DATE:	Wednesday October 2, 2019
Helena Montana	PLACE/ROOM:	Room 102 State Capitol Building

NAME:	TOWN:	PHONE:
Bill Hugel	Helena	459-9782
Scott Haeßner	Anaconda	498-0211
Keith Erwin	Missoula	493-2467
Michael Rabb	Bozeman	404-1747
Faye Allard	"	560-2289
Kate Cholera	Miss/Helena	<del>560-2289</del>
↳ email katemcholera@gmail.com ↳ hemp video + info email		